

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL with VALOR RECOMMENDATION FOR
SPECIALIST JACOB D. GRAFF
MOTOR TRANSPORT OPERATOR

On 20 March 2005, Convoy 678N was traveling north on Alternate Supply Route Bismark enroute to Logistic Supply Area Anaconda when forty to fifty anti-coalition forces with the intent to cause American casualties ambushed the convoy. The ambush consisted of the following elements: heavy small arms fire; an improvised explosive device placed in the road median; two road obstacles meant to funnel and fix the convoy; accurate rocket propelled grenade fire with direct hits to vehicles; and a ground assault of 10-15 insurgents upon a line of convoy escort platforms. The insurgents captured were carrying handcuffs suggesting they were intending to capture American Troops. Specialist Graff was the driver of the fourth M915 in the convoy when the convoy came to a sudden halt. Specialist Graff heard a barrage of gunfire and the cries of a wounded soldier over the radio. Rocket propelled grenades were falling on forward trucks and Specialist Harris, Specialist Graff's co-driver, was wounded in the head by gunfire. As his co-driver yelled in pain, Specialist Graff began maneuvering his truck out of the kill zone. Specialist Graff was shot in the right arm as he was pulling out of the kill zone. Undeterred, Specialist Graff drove to the casualty collection point the convoy commander had established, dismounted, and helped Specialist Harris out of the truck. Other soldiers immediately began performing first aid on both of them, but, seeing that combat lifesavers were limited, Specialist Graff refused to receive treatment until other more severely wounded soldiers had been treated first. While other soldiers were being treated, Specialist Graff provided security for the casualty collection point to insure that there were no surprise follow-on attacks by the insurgents. Specialist Graff's disregard for his own safety despite being wounded was critical to the delivery of immediate first aid to Specialist Harris and ensured that the other wounded soldiers could safely and efficiently received treatment. His actions reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.